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February 9, 2005 LB 162

by someone 21 years of age or older, who also has a hunting permit. It allows the commission to issue auction or lottery permits for deer, antelope, elk, and wild turkey, but no more than 5 percent of those available permits. It allows a disabled person with a special permit to hunt and fish from a vehicle. There was no opposition to this bill in committee. It is also supported by the Nebraska Sportsman Council, and it fully supports the bill, and they represent over 100 to 150 different organizations. So I thank the Natural Resources Committee for selecting this bill as their priority bill. And Chairman Schrock and I will certainly be willing to answer any questions that you might have on the bill. So thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. You've heard the introduction of LB 162. There are committee amendments, offered by the Natural Resources Committee. Senator Schrock, you're recognized, as Chairman, to open on those committee amendments. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Excuse me. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the committee amendment clarifies that permits that have been issued to veterans who have been rated as 50 percent or more disabled or reached the age of 65 and obtained a free permit prior to the adoption of this bill, will not expire, will the permit expire that a person 70 years old has obtained prior to the act. It also requires that a person between the age of 12 of 15 years of age that is hunting deer, antelope, elk, or mountain sheep, be accompanied by a person who, in addition to being at least 21 years old, must also have a valid hunting permit. This requirement is also placed on individuals who are accompanied by a person 12 years old or younger who is hunting wild turkey. And that would put them in line to be the same as pheasants and grouse and quail. The amendment raises the permit fee for nonresidents to hunt wild turkey from between \$65 and \$75 to between \$85 and \$95. This is the committee amendments, and we appreciate your consideration.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments to LB 162. Open for discussion on those amendments. Senator Chambers.